Amendments to the Claims:

1. (canceled)

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2. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nerve growth factor (NGF) at a concentration ranging from 0.07 to 20 mg/ml and a pharmaceutically acceptable acetate-containing buffer, wherein the buffer contains an acetate ion concentration of between 5 and 30 mM, and wherein the pharmaceutical composition is ~~of therapeutic purity, adapted for administration to humans~~ effective to retain its efficacy for greater than six months when stored at about 5 °C..

3. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition has a pH from pH 5 to 6.

4. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the buffer is sodium acetate.

5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition has an acetate concentration of ~~0.1~~ 10 to ~~200~~ 20 mM.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The composition of claim 2, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable preservative.

8. (original) The composition of claim 7, wherein the preservative is selected from the group consisting of benzyl alcohol, phenol, m-cresol, methylparaben, and propylparaben.

9. (original) The composition of claim 7, wherein the preservative is benzyl alcohol.

10. (previously amended) The composition of claim 2, further comprising a benzyl alcohol concentration from 0.1 to 2.0%

11. (original) The composition of claim 2, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable surfactant.

12. (original) The composition of claim 2, further comprising a physiologically acceptable concentration of sodium chloride.

13. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 2, wherein the nerve growth factor has a concentration of ~~at least 0.1~~ about 0.08 to about 15 mg/ml.

14. (previously amended) The composition according to claim 2, wherein said nerve growth factor has a concentration of 0.1 to about 2.0 mg/ml.

15. (previously amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the NGF concentration is 0.1 mg/ml, the acetate-containing buffer is 20 mM sodium acetate, and wherein the composition further comprises a sodium chloride concentration of 136 mM, a benzyl alcohol concentration of 0.9% (v/v), and wherein the composition is about pH 5.5.

16. (previously amended) The composition of claim 2, wherein the NGF concentration is 2.0 mg/ml, the acetate-containing buffer is 10 mM sodium acetate, and wherein the composition further comprises a sodium chloride concentration of 142 mM, and wherein the composition is about pH 5.5.

17. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the nerve growth factor is 118 amino acid NGF.

18. (currently amended) A composition produced by the process comprising formulating nerve growth factor (NGF) at a concentration from 0.07 to 20 mg/ml and a pharmaceutically acceptable acetate-containing buffer, wherein the buffer contains an acetate ion concentration of between 5 and 30 mM and wherein the composition is ~~of therapeutic purity and adapted for administration to humans~~. effective to retain its efficacy for greater than six months when stored at about 5 °C.

19. (currently amended) The composition of claim 18 wherein the composition is formulated with 0.1 mg/ml NGF, 20 mM sodium acetate, 136 mM sodium chloride, 0.9 % (v/v) benzyl alcohol, at pH of 5.5.

20. (currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein the nerve growth factor is 118/118 rhNGF.

21. (previously amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein the nerve growth factor is secreted and purified from Chinese hamster ovary cells.